

### **Remarks**

Claims 1 - 20 are pending. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

The Board of Appeals decision indicated that Applicants' comparative examples would have been sufficient to overcome a *prima facie* case of obviousness if the commercial polyvinyl alcohol had been identified as to its makeup, and if additional comparative examples were submitted to make the showing commensurate with the scope of the claims.

As indicated in the record, the polyvinyl alcohols of the subject invention allow for compositions which are surprisingly storage stable, whereas otherwise similar polymers not containing 1-alkylvinyl ester groups exhibit storage problems.

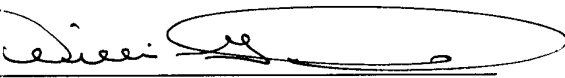
Laboratory experiments are being prepared to further demonstrate the non-obviousness of the present invention. These results will be presented in a subsequent amendment prior to restarting prosecution.

Applicants submit that the claims are now in condition for Allowance, and respectfully request a Notice to that effect. If the Examiner believes that further discussion will advance the prosecution of the Application, the Examiner is highly encouraged to telephone Applicants' attorney at the number given below.

Please charge any fees or credit any overpayments as a result of the filing of this paper to our Deposit Account No. 02-3978.

Respectfully submitted,

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